

## Sullivan County NH

**Type of meeting:** Board of Commissioners – Special Meeting – MS42

**Date/Time:** Thursday – September 7, 2006; 4 PM

**Place:** Newport County Complex, 14 Main Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Commissioners Conference Room

**Attendees:** *Commissioners* Donald S. Clarke – *Chair*, Ben Nelson – *Vice Chair* and Ethel Jarvis – *Clerk*; Ed Gil de Rubio – *County Manager*

**Other attendees:** *State Delegates* – Larry Converse, John Cloutier, Charlotte Houde-Quimby, Jay Phinizy (Phinizy arrived @ 4:02 p.m.) and Joe Osgood (arrived @ 4:30 p.m.); Valley News Reporter; Lisa Connell - Eagle Times Staff reporter (arrived @ 4:10 p.m.); Gordon Flint (arrived @ 4:30 p.m.).

**4 PM** Commissioner Clarke brought the meeting to order. Representative Cloutier led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Gil de Rubio noted he requested the Board to call the meeting Monday and that they invited the auditors and accountant. He noted this was in response to the Sunday Eagle Times article pertaining to a Delegation meeting, that did not have a quorum, where allegations were made. Gil de Rubio noted the auditors originally confirmed they would be at today's meeting, but canceled; and Jeff Graham was in Burlington VT, on his way back so Mr. Gil de Rubio contacted Graham to let him know the auditors were unable to attend and not to rush back. Mr. Gil de Rubio was able meet with auditors this morning to go over the FY06 audit and MS42 issues. Sheryl and Frank Biron, of Melanson & Heath, agreed to meet with the Board Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m. to review the draft of the audit and to discuss, with the Commissioners, County Manager and Accountant, their feelings on this year's audit - which Mr. Gil de Rubio noted was good -how it took place and the way they feel Sullivan County is heading: what kind of direction and how we are responding to it as a county and our fiscal responsibilities to the tax payers.

Mr. Gil de Rubio passed out a copy of an e-mail from Jeff Graham dated August 24<sup>th</sup>, regarding his attempts to contact Don Borrer, Commissioner of the NH State Department of Revenues; and his follow up meeting with Barbara Robinson, Director of DRA, to discuss the MS42 and Peter Franklin's requests. (Copy on file at Commissioners Office).

Mr. Gil de Rubio summarized what took place this morning and where they were going:

- o "This morning I met with Sheryl Stephens-Burke from Melanson and Heath. Initially, both Sheryl and Frank Biron, Sheryl's boss, have spent time looking at the MS42. Melanson & Heath are satisfied with our budget, including the infamous \$1.2 million. According to Ms. Stephens-Burke, the budget ratified by the Delegation is a balanced budget. They feel that the MS42 is a difficult form to compare with an actual budget. DRA should call either Melanson and

Heath or Jeff Graham regarding any questions about the MS42. Sheryl did point out that the Delegation should not be conducting meetings without a quorum – especially if there are going to be funds dispensed, she was a little annoyed with that and this continues to show up in the Management Letter. I have scheduled a meeting with the auditors and Jeff Graham on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> to review the FY06 audit. The time of the meeting is 10 a.m. and will be held at the Commissioners Office. Regarding the FY06 audit, I will say unofficially, after deducting uncollectible write-offs, the Nursing Home had a surplus of approximately \$51,000.”...“The meeting I had with Sheryl took place around two hours, and Dodi, Sheryl and I went over everything from soup to nuts, and I’ll tell you something, you have an incredible staff at Sullivan County, I’m not...take the County Manager out of the picture, what took place last week is a slap in their face. I’ve had repercussions from it, there is a low moral, and I tell you it’s got to stop.”

Commissioner Nelson commented it was unfortunate one person cried wolf before having the facts, creating a negative impact on the County keeping residents, and attracting new patients and staff. He noted they’ve heard from the auditors, and accountant, who have said the audit was fine, and that they will hear from them next week about the initial audit draft. Commissioner Clarke concurred questions about the MS42 form should be referred to the auditors and accountant.

**4:30 A motion was made, by Commissioner Nelson, to adjourn the meeting.**

Commissioner Jarvis questioned why they could not discuss the MS42. County Manager noted it was a complicated form to put in to the County’s method of accounting; and indicated he was finished explaining about a form the DRA has difficulty interpreting, and is hard to read. Commissioner Clarke noted there was a motion on the table.

**Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.**

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Ethel Jarvis, Clerk  
Board of Commissioners*

*EJ/s.j-c.*